

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-12.. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A device for taking and examining samples, comprising a housing having positioned therein a cartridge containing a liquid, a testing means, and a sample-taking means, the sample-taking means comprising two half-tubes connected to each other by a joint at one end, the two half-tubes are capable of pivoting between two positions, an open position, wherein the two half-tubes are apart for collecting a sample and a closed position, wherein the two half-tubes are pressed together, wherein the cartridge is displaceable within the housing such that a sample introduced by the sample-taking means is operable to form a sample mixture with the liquid within the cartridge, and wherein the testing means is displaceable within the housing.

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the two half-tubes comprises a first disk and a second disk defining a sample chamber, when the two-half tubes are in the closed position.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the first disk comprises a sieve and an indentation, and further wherein an edge of the first disk comprises a cone-shaped ring.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the cartridge is cylindrically shaped and comprises, on one end, a truncated cone engageable with the cone-shaped ring.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the joint is selected from the group consisting of a film hinge and an elastic web.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the first disk is coupled to the sample-taking means with predetermined breaking points.

19-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the testing

means is displaceable within the housing between a first position, in which the testing means does not contact the sample mixture, and a second position, in which the testing means makes contact with the sample mixture.

24-26. (Canceled)